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## BOOK REVIEWS.

**PROBLEMS OF CONDUCT: An Introductory Survey of Ethics.** By Durant Drake, Assistant Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion at Wesleyan University. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin Company, 1914. Pp. xiii, 455.

This is a book of the same general type as, but less thorough and technical than, the solid work on "Ethics" published by Professors Dewey and Tufts a number of years ago. In its four parts it covers a wide range of theoretical and practical problems, discussing "The Evolution of Morality" (pp. 9-72), "The Theory of Morality" (pp. 73-178), "Personal Morality" (pp. 179-304), and "Public Morality" (pp. 305-449). The book was written, so Professor Drake tells us, to meet the needs both of the college student who has the added guidance of an instructor, and of the general reader who has no such assistance. Only a small part of it is devoted to the consideration of fundamental theoretical questions; the student who shies at thinking things out to their bitter end—and he is not an unknown quantity in our colleges—will be glad to learn from the Preface that "the disputes and technical language of theorists have been throughout so far as possible avoided, and that the author's prayer "to be saved from academic abstractness and remoteness" has been answered. There can be no objection to such a treatment of the subject, which, the writer frankly confesses, must inevitably be superficial, if we steadily keep in mind that his chief aim is to give us not a system of ethics but a practical manual which shall "go straight to the real perplexities from which men suffer in deciding upon their conduct." The purpose of the study of ethics is for him, "primarily, to get light for the guidance of life"; he has sought "to impart a definite conception of relative values, to offer a thread for guidance through the labyrinth of moral problems, and to effect a heightened realization of the importance and the possibilities of right living." Judged by the task which Professor Drake has set himself—and it is a worthy task—this introductory survey must be characterized as clear and sensible. In our colleges, if anywhere, there ought to be a place for practical moral instruction that will help the young to think intelligently upon moral matters; and who could be better fitted to

undertake this business than a man who devotes his efforts to the understanding of the meaning of the moral life?

It would, however, be a pity if the beginner should regard the brief sketch of the *theory* of morality presented in this book as the last word upon the subject and should be turned away from a deeper study by the seemingly impatient tone of the Preface which may perhaps give him a false idea of the value of the work that has been done in this field. Problems can be made to appear much simpler than they are, in a popular text, and discussions which have engaged the attention of great minds may impress the young student who is interested in the practical questions of the day as mere hair-splitting. Thus, for example, it will be easy for him, after reading Professor Drake's exposition of Kant's ethical philosophy, to agree that "as a theorist he is hopelessly inadequate," and he may wonder, after perusing the account of the happiness-theory, why anyone should ever have ventured to call it in question. A closer study of the works of the great German thinker would, I believe, show him that there is much more in the Kantian ethics than is offered in our author's presentation of it, and a critical examination of the pleasure-theory would convince him that the quarrel between schools is not mere academic moonshine. Still, with the added guidance of a competent instructor, as Professor Drake recommends, to raise doubts, suggest opposing views, conduct a discussion with the object of making the student think for himself, and to direct "the outside readings which should supplement this purposely brief and summary treatment," the student can avoid the danger of a paralyzing dogmatism, and the book cannot fail to be what alone it aims to be, that is, a useful and interesting introductory survey of ethics.

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JUVENILE COURTS AND PROBATION. By Bernard Flexner and Roger N. Baldwin. New York: The Century Company, 1914. Pp. 308.

THE JUVENILE COURT AND THE COMMUNITY. By Thomas D. Eliot. New York: The Macmillan Co., 1914. \$1.25.

The text of the first of these volumes was prepared by Bernard Flexner of the Kentucky and the Chicago Bar, and Roger N. Baldwin, formerly Chief Probation Officer of the St. Louis Ju-